

RANADHIRA



THE VALOROUS KING OF MYSORE

Ranadhira Kanthirava Narasaraaja Wodeyar (1638-1659), king of Mysore, was a popular ruler who introduced many reforms. To this day, many tales are told of his extraordinary strength, keen intellect and generosity. It was during his reign that Mysore became a major power in the South.

Before Ranadhira succeeded to the throne, he had to deal with the wicked and ambitious Vikramaraya, the Dalwai, or chief minister, of the kingdom.

The material for this Amar Chitra Katha has been drawn from the account given by Lt. Col. Mark Wilks in his *History of Mysore* and from *Vamshavali*, a work in Kannada published by the Mysore Palace.

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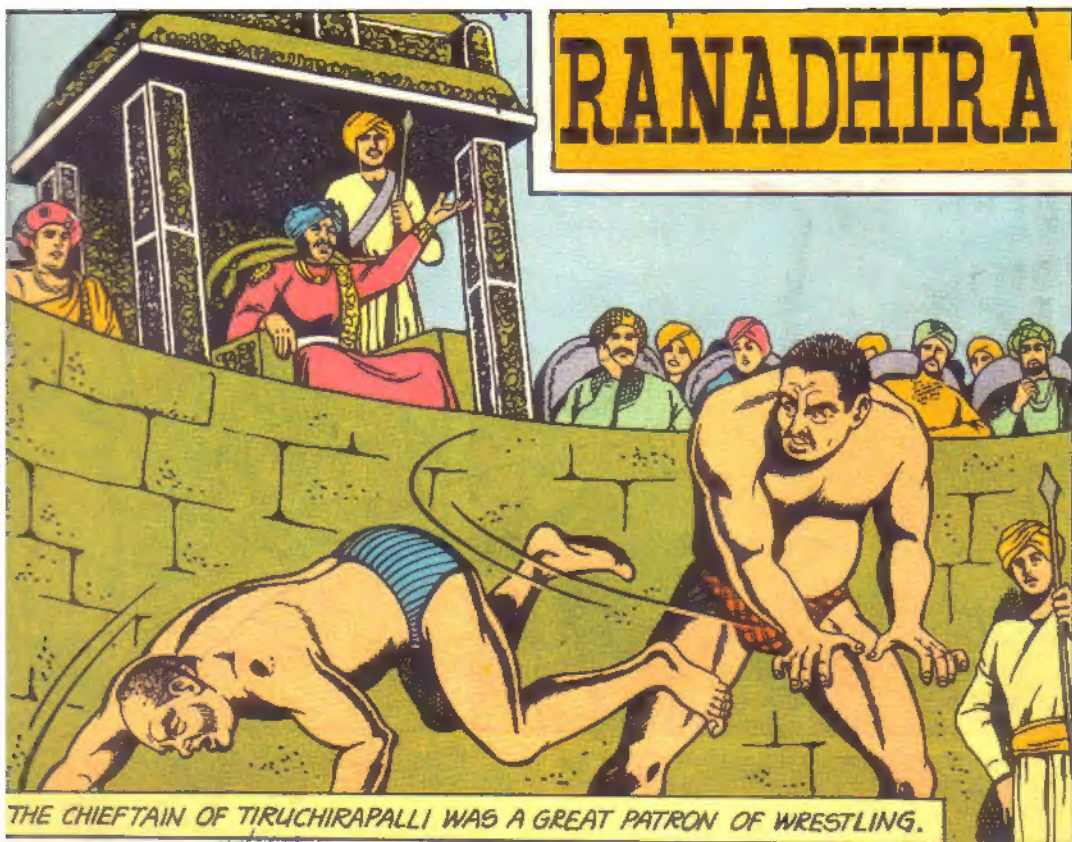
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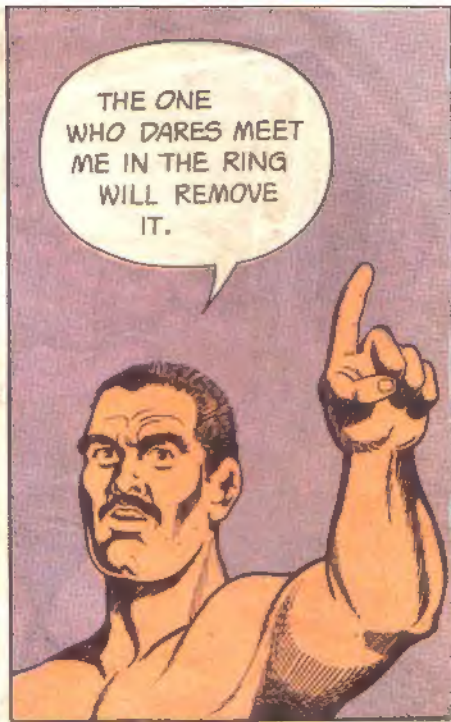
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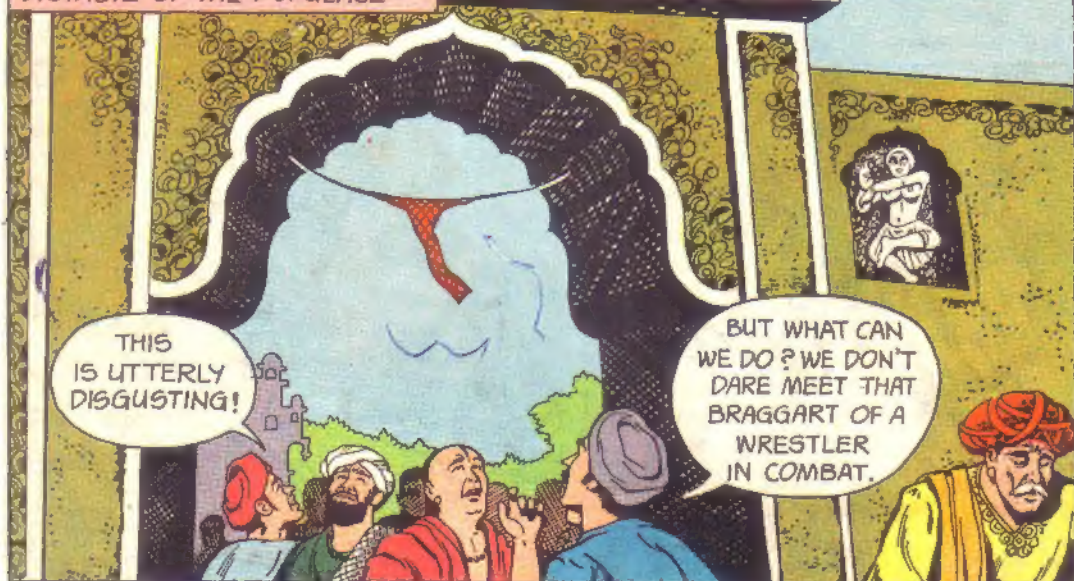
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RANADHIRA

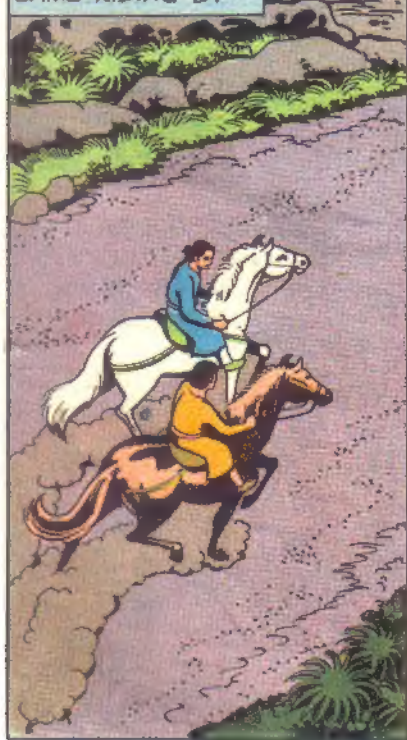




THE WRESTLER'S LOIN-CLOTH WAS HUNG ON THE GATEWAY MUCH TO THE DISTASTE OF THE POPULACE —



ONE DAY, TWO TRAVELLERS CAME RIDING BY.



THEY WERE ABOUT TO ENTER THE FORT WHEN THEY PULLED TO A HALT.



BUT THE YOUNG
HOTHEAD PAID
NO HEED TO
THE WARNING.



GREAT WAS THE
EXCITEMENT AS THE
NEWS SPREAD LIKE
WILDFIRE.

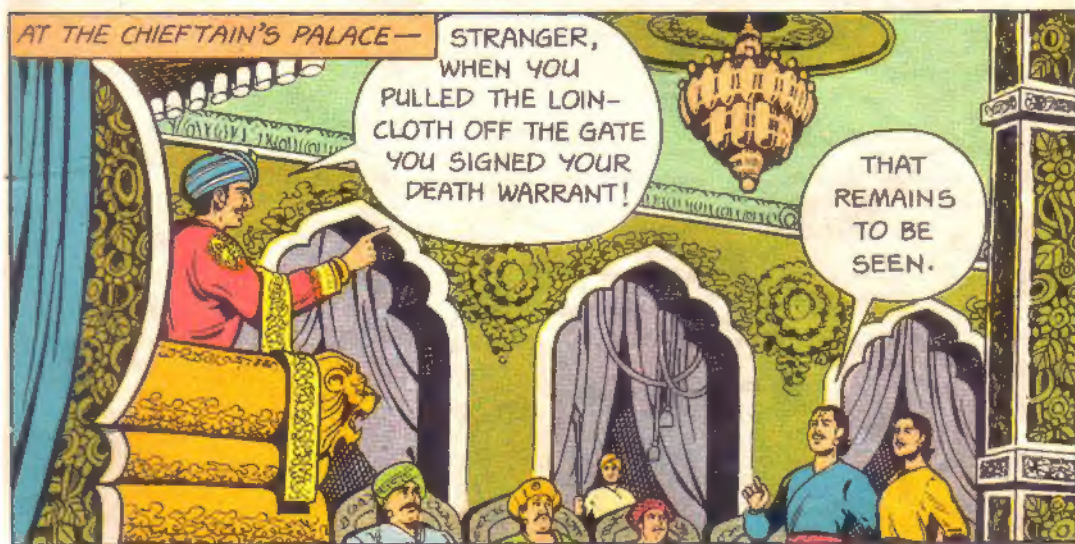
HE JUST CUT
DOWN THE CLOTH
EVEN THOUGH HE
KNEW OF MAHA-
MALLA'S
CHALLENGE.

WHAT
COURAGE!

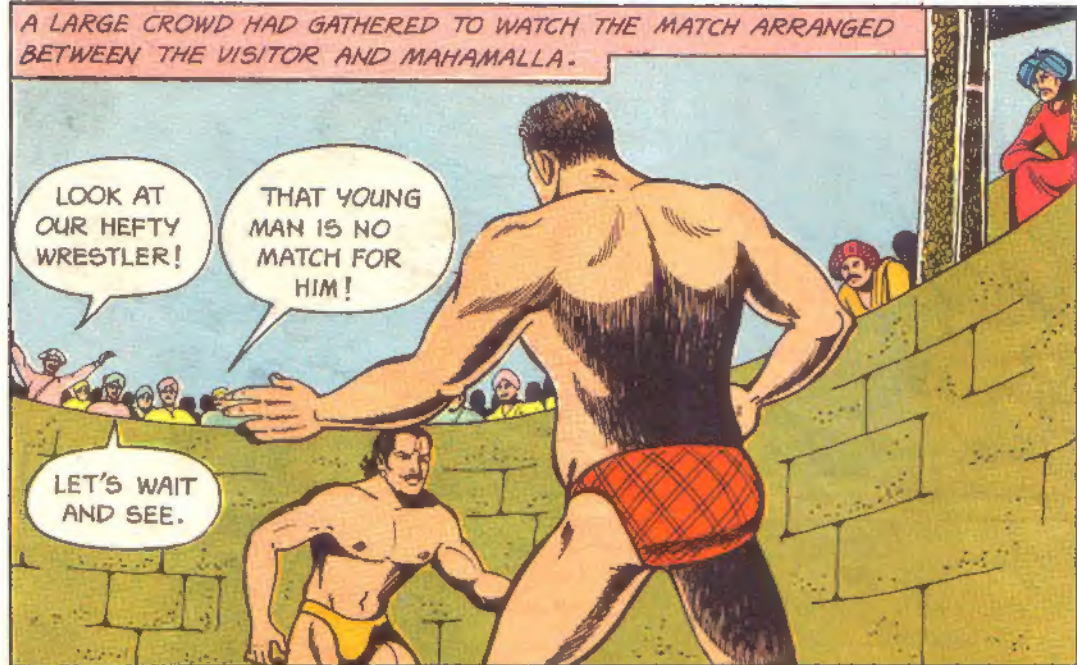
BUT HIS DAYS
ARE NUMBERED;
MAHAMALLA WILL
CRUSH HIM.



MEANWHILE THE PALACE GUARDS HAD CLOSED IN ON THE YOUNG MAN.



A LARGE CROWD HAD GATHERED TO WATCH THE MATCH ARRANGED BETWEEN THE VISITOR AND MAHAMALLA.

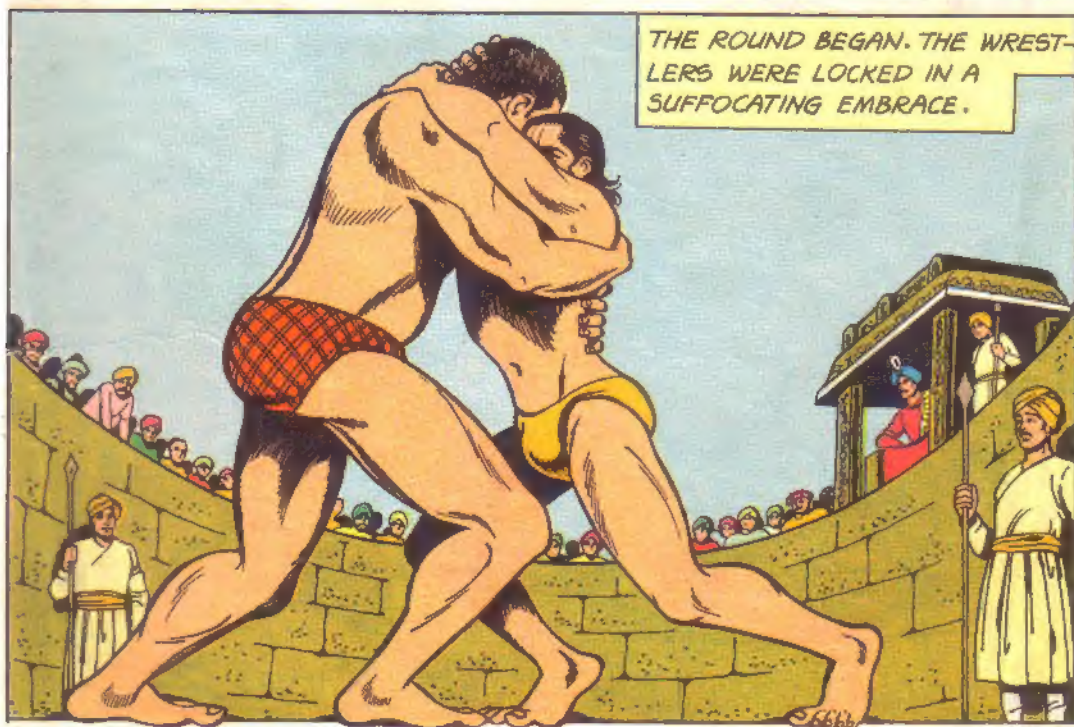
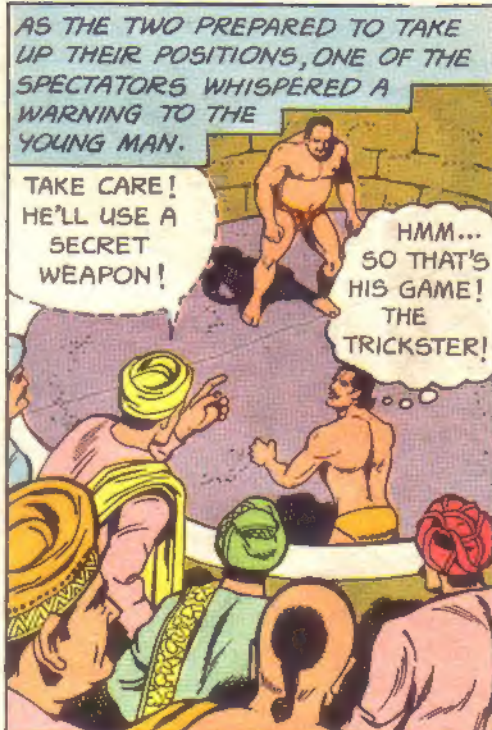


A FEW MOMENTS LATER —



HE'S CLEVER,
THIS YOUNG MAN!
BUT I KNOW ONE
TRICK THAT WILL
FINISH HIM OFF!





BUT SECONDS LATER THE YOUNG WRESTLER
HAD SMOOTHLY STEPPED BACK —

WHY HAVE
YOU
STOPPED?

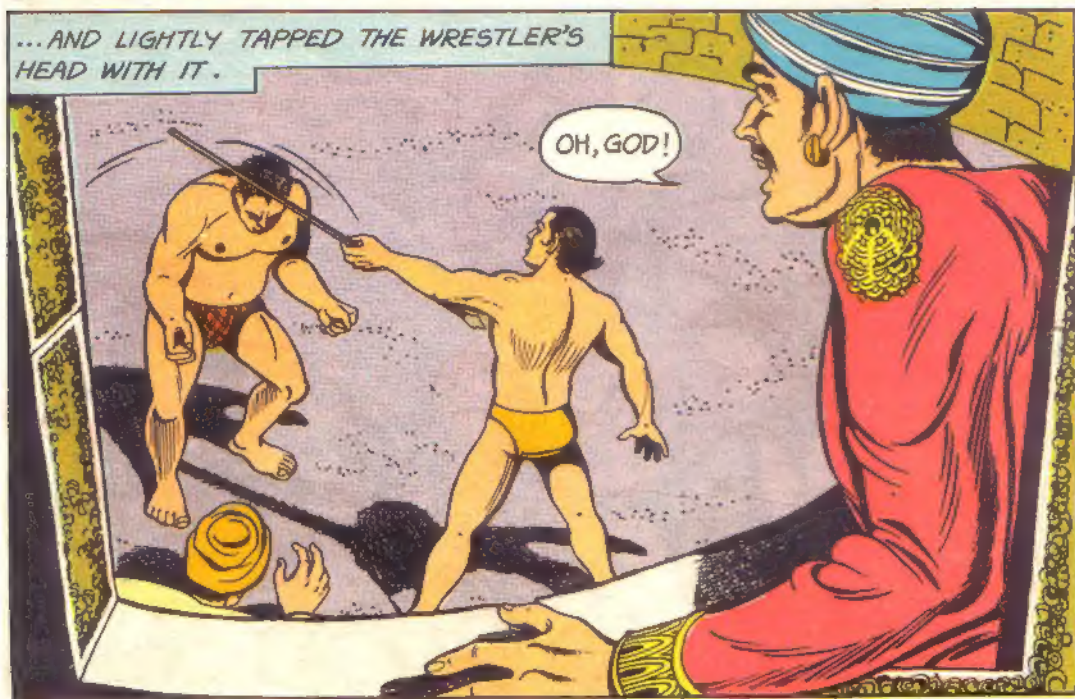


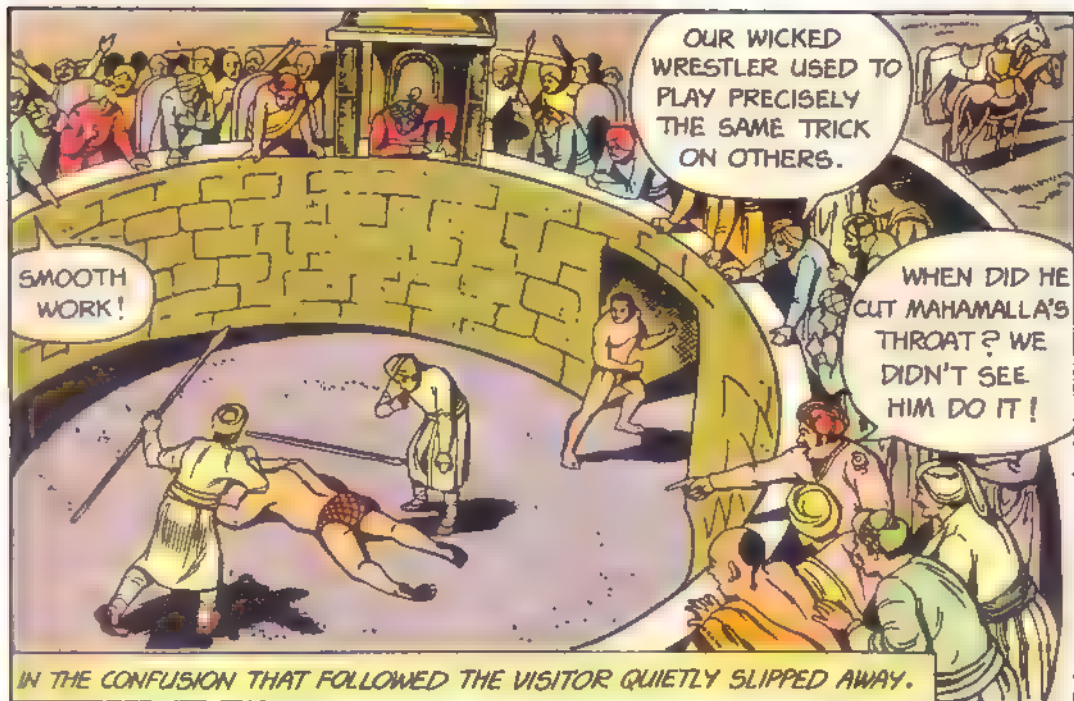
IN ANSWER, THE YOUNG MAN
SNATCHED A SPEAR FROM ONE
OF THE GUARDS ...



...AND LIGHTLY TAPPED THE WRESTLER'S
HEAD WITH IT.

OH, GOD!

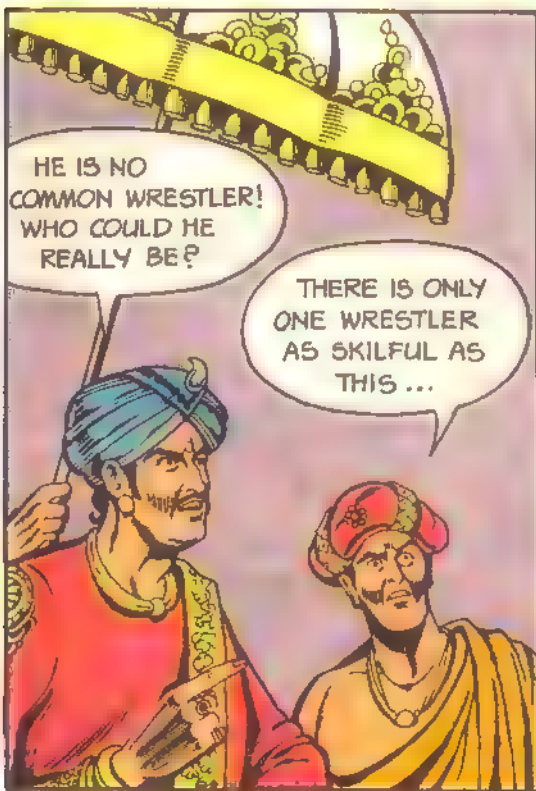


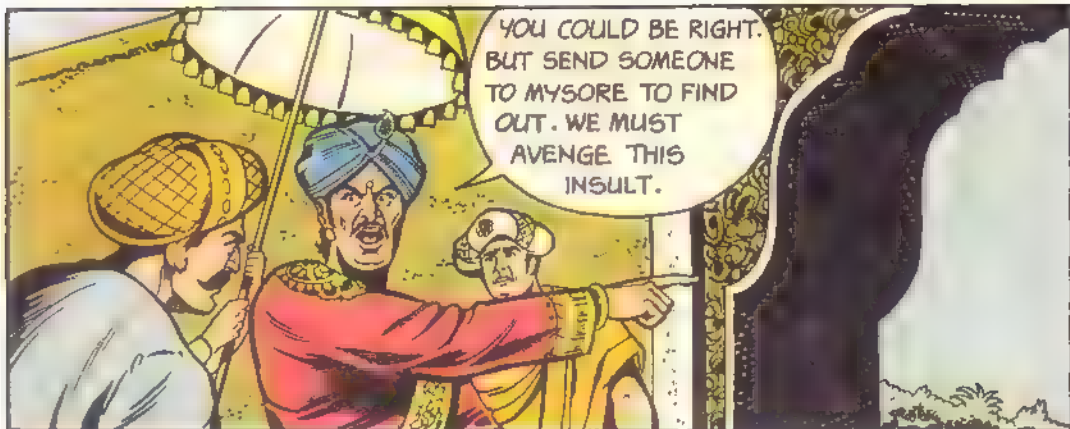


THE CHIEFTAIN RODE UP TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE FORT.



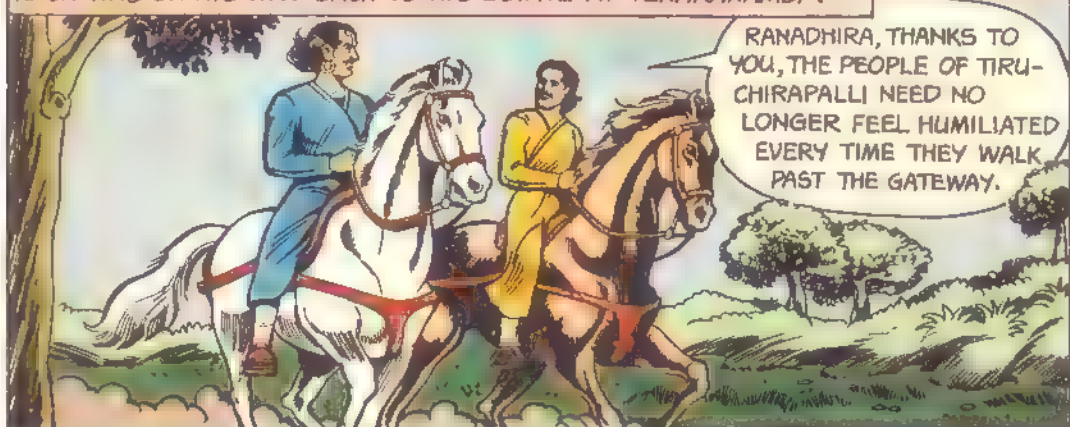
THE MAN WHO
KILLED THAT
ARROGANT
VILLAIN IS A
COMMON
WRESTLER
FROM MYSORE



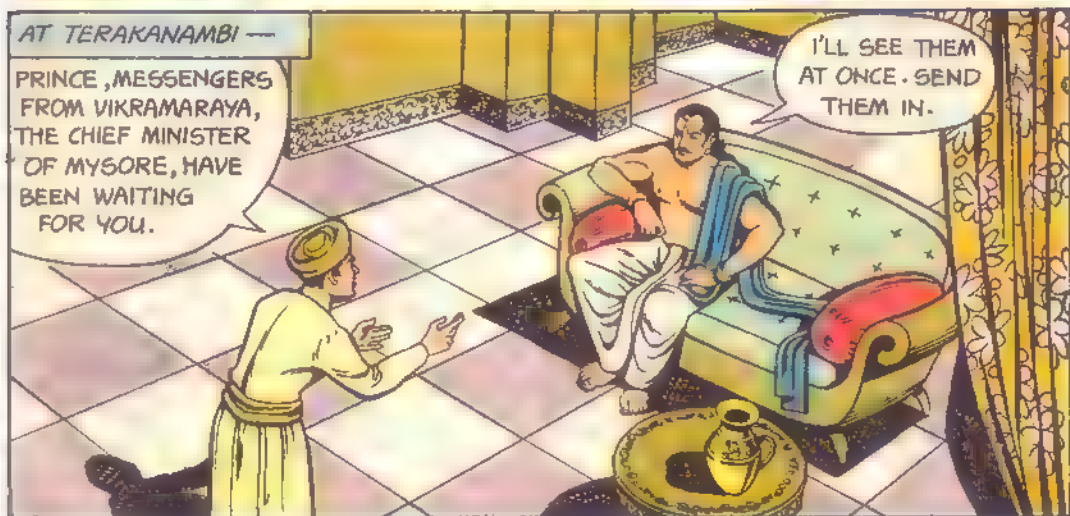


YOU COULD BE RIGHT.
BUT SEND SOMEONE
TO MYSORE TO FIND
OUT. WE MUST
AVENGE THIS
INSULT.

MEANWHILE THE VICTORIOUS WRESTLER WHO WAS INDEED RANADHIRA NARASA-
RAJA WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO HIS ESTATE AT TERAKANAMBI*.



RANADHIRA, THANKS TO
YOU, THE PEOPLE OF TIRU-
CHIRAPALLI NEED NO
LONGER FEEL HUMILIATED
EVERY TIME THEY WALK
PAST THE GATEWAY.

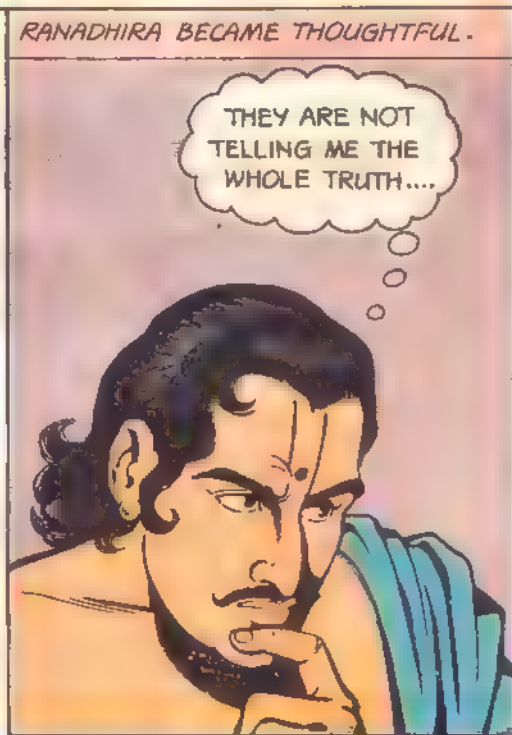
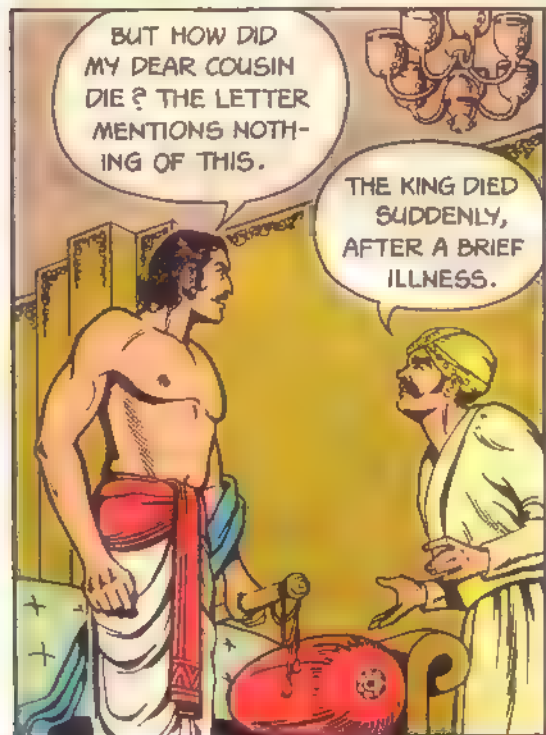
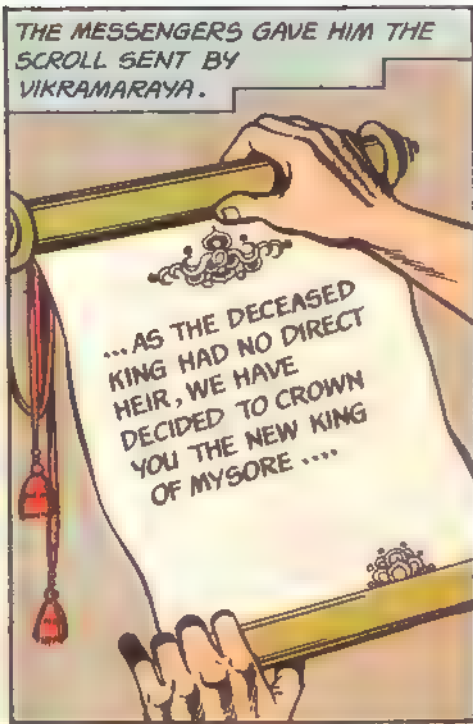
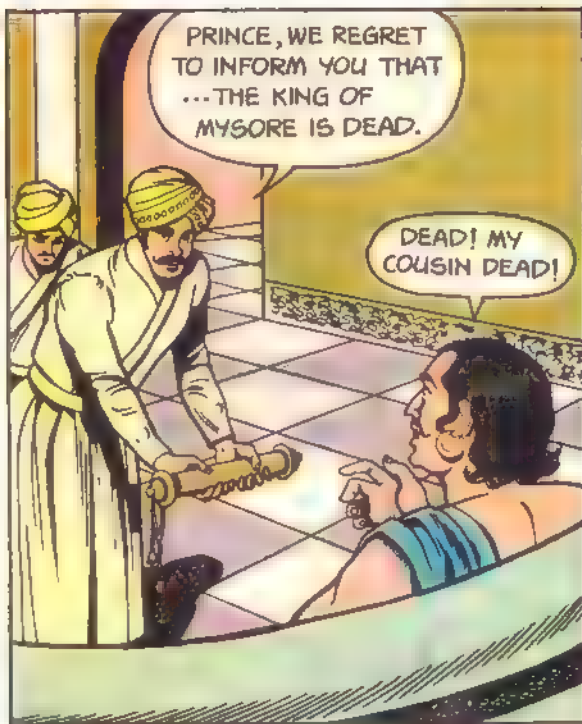


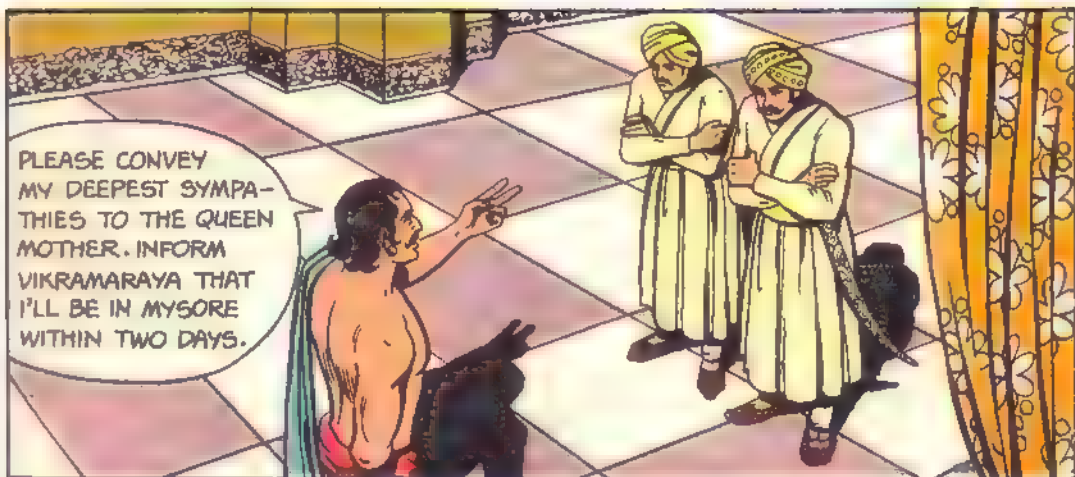
AT TERAKANAMBI —

PRINCE, MESSENGERS
FROM VIKRAMARAYA,
THE CHIEF MINISTER
OF MYSORE, HAVE
BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU.

I'LL SEE THEM
AT ONCE. SEND
THEM IN.

* A PLACE NEAR MYSORE CITY

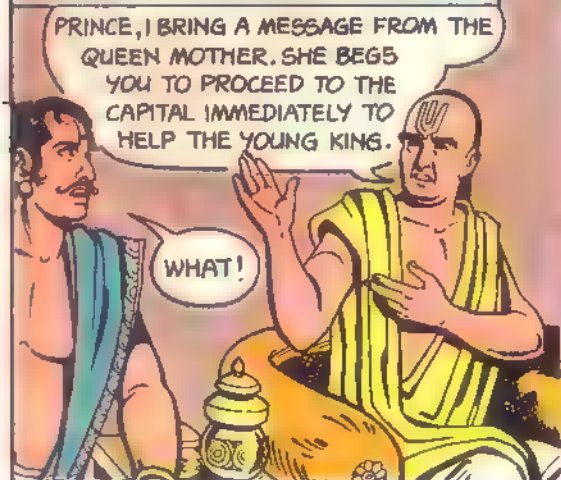




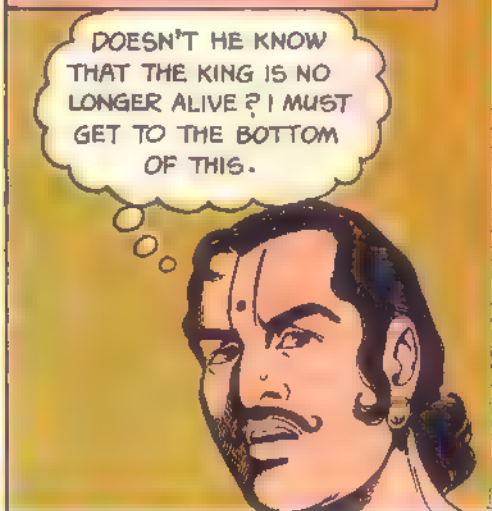
THE MESSENGERS LEFT TERAKANAMBI.

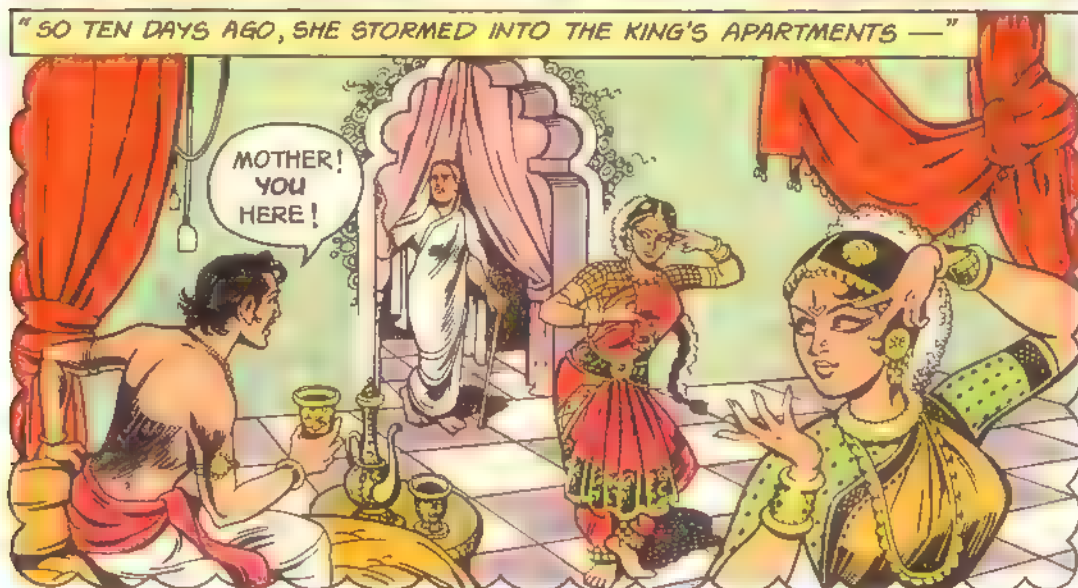
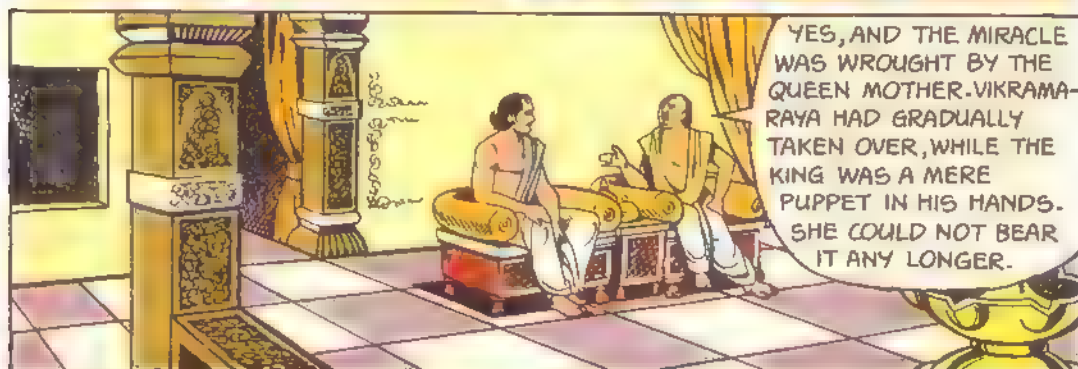
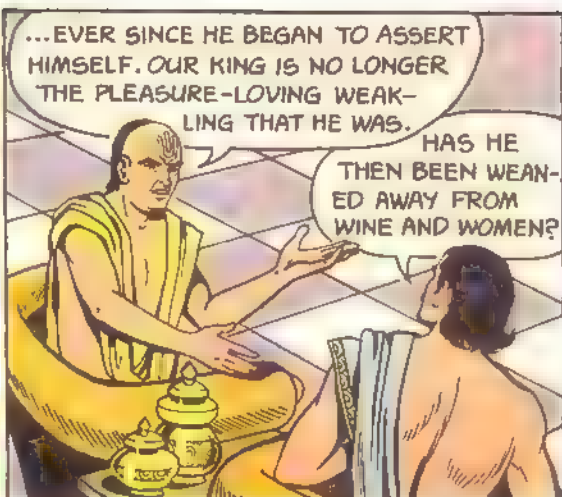
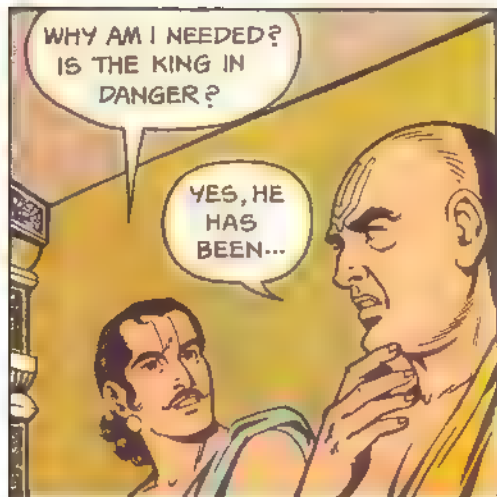


SOON AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE, A BRAHMAN CALLED ON RANADHIRA—

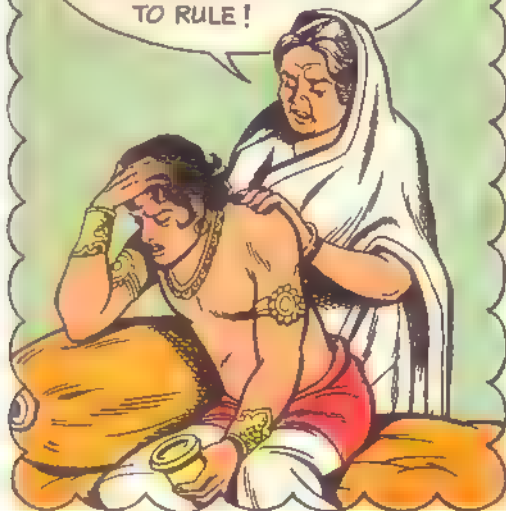


RANADHIRA WAS PERPLEXED.





SON, YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN
YOUR DUTIES TO YOUR PEOPLE
AND THE STATE! YOU HAVE
BETRAYED THE TRUST PLACED
IN YOU BY YOUR
FATHER! YOU ARE UNFIT
TO RULE!



"THE KING BECAME AWARE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AND BEGAN TO LEAD A NEW LIFE. HE PAID A SURPRISE VISIT TO THE TREASURY."

LET ME SEE THE INVENTORY.
OPEN THE TREASURY
DOORS.

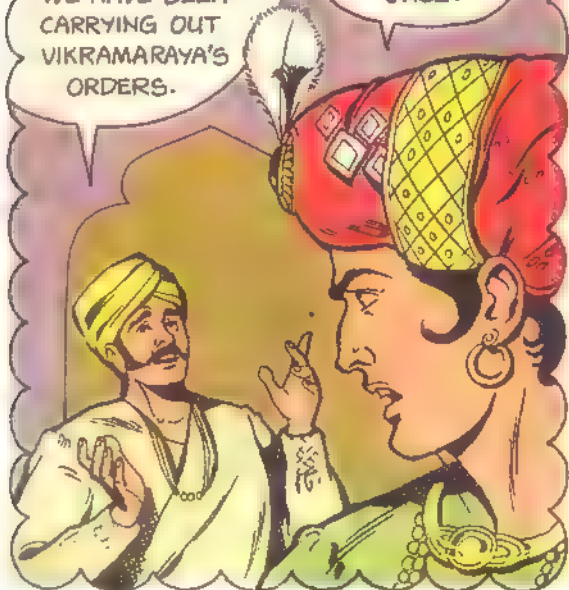


YES,
YOUR
MAJESTY.

"HE FOUND THERE WAS A HUGE DEFICIT."

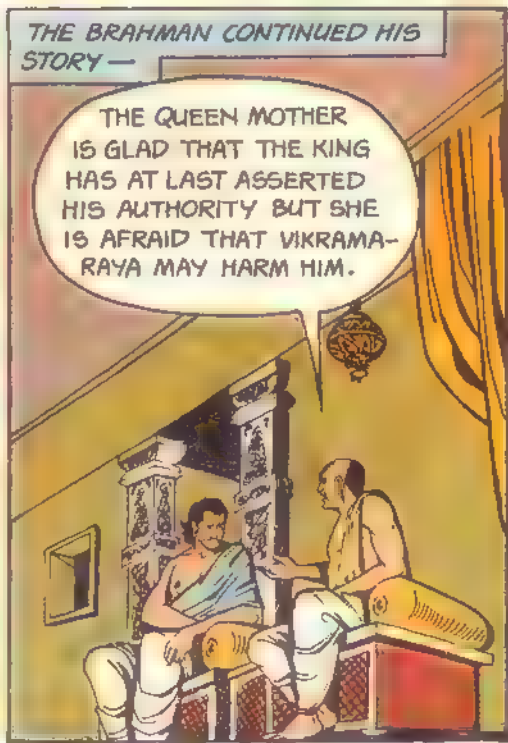
WE ARE INNOCENT,
YOUR MAJESTY.
WE HAVE BEEN
CARRYING OUT
VIKRAMARAYA'S
ORDERS.

ASK HIM TO
SEE ME AT
ONCE.



THE BRAHMAN CONTINUED HIS
STORY —

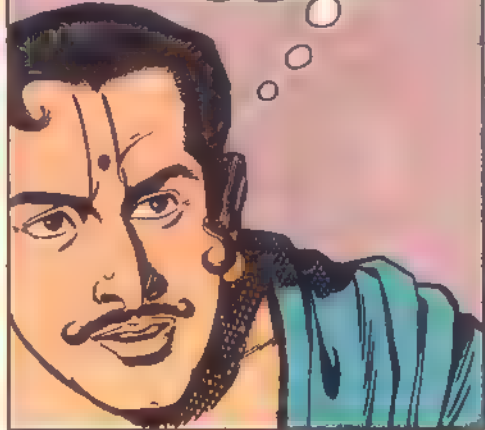
THE QUEEN MOTHER
IS GLAD THAT THE KING
HAS AT LAST ASSERTED
HIS AUTHORITY BUT SHE
IS AFRAID THAT VIKRAMA-
RAYA MAY HARM HIM.



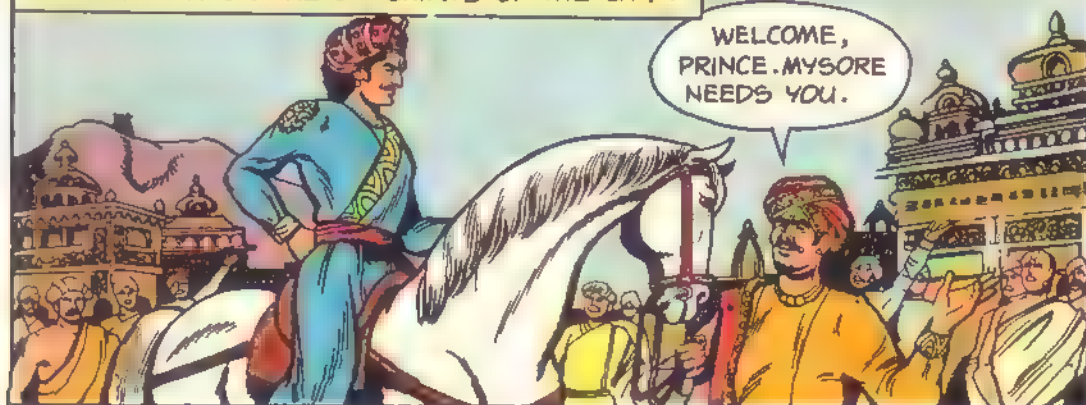


RANADHIRA WAS NOW CERTAIN THAT THE KING HAD BEEN A VICTIM OF FOUL PLAY.

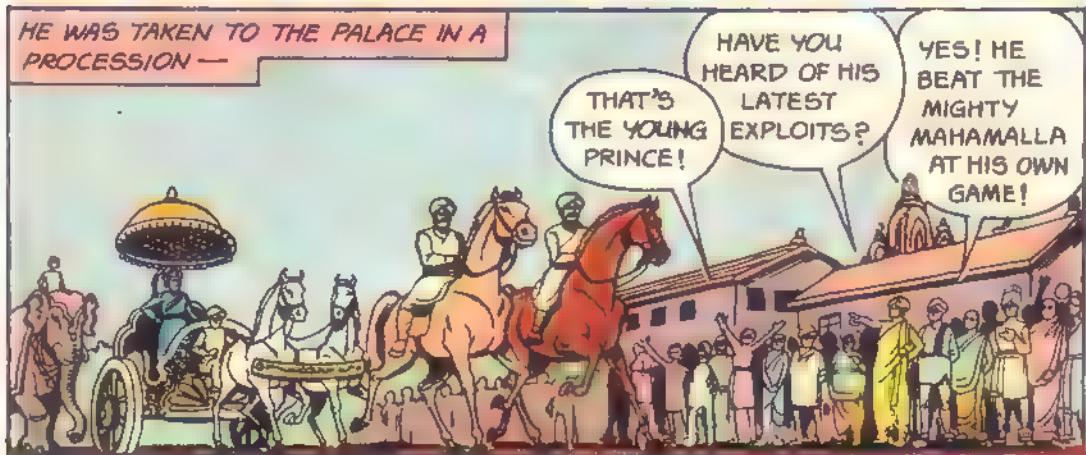
VIKRAMARAYA! IF YOU HAVE HAD A HAND IN THIS EVIL DEED, YOU SHALL PAY FOR IT WITH YOUR LIFE.



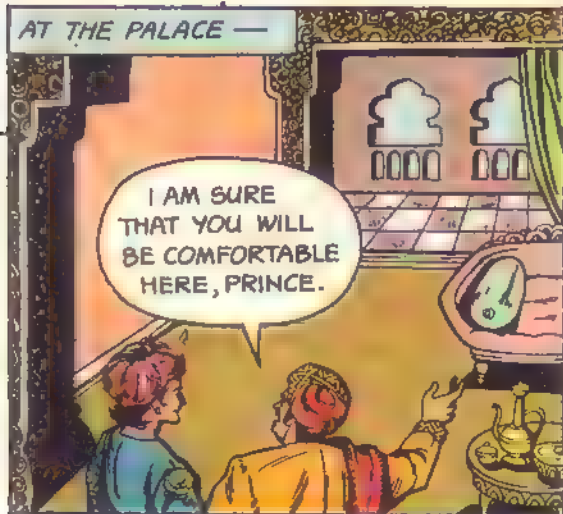
THE FOLLOWING DAY RANADHIRA LEFT FOR MYSORE. HE WAS RECEIVED BY VIKRAMARAYA ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.



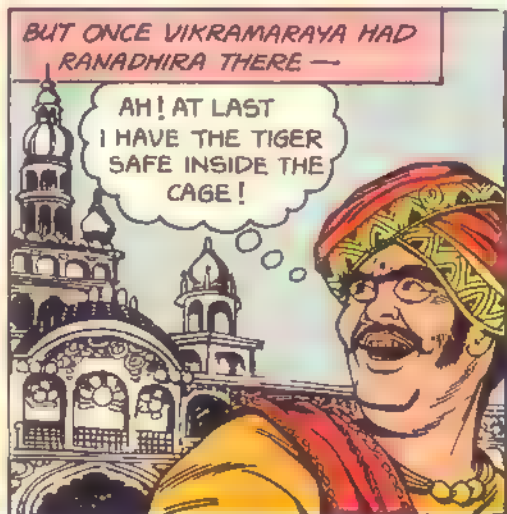
HE WAS TAKEN TO THE PALACE IN A PROCESSION —



AT THE PALACE —



BUT ONCE VIKRAMARAYA HAD RANADHIRA THERE —



RANADHIRA WAS VIRTUALLY A PRISONER IN THE PALACE.

TAKE ME TO THE QUEEN MOTHER'S CHAMBERS—NOW.

I CAN'T TAKE YOU THERE WITHOUT VIKRAMARAYA'S PERMISSION!



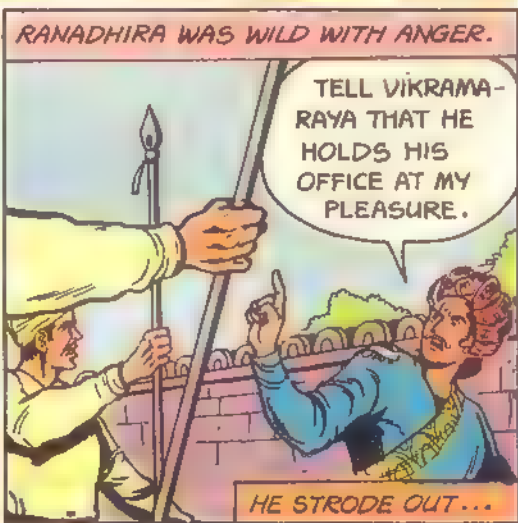
YOU WORM, HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT!

THOSE ARE VIKRAMARAYA'S ORDERS, PRINCE.



RANADHIRA WAS WILD WITH ANGER.

TELL VIKRAMARAYA THAT HE HOLDS HIS OFFICE AT MY PLEASURE.

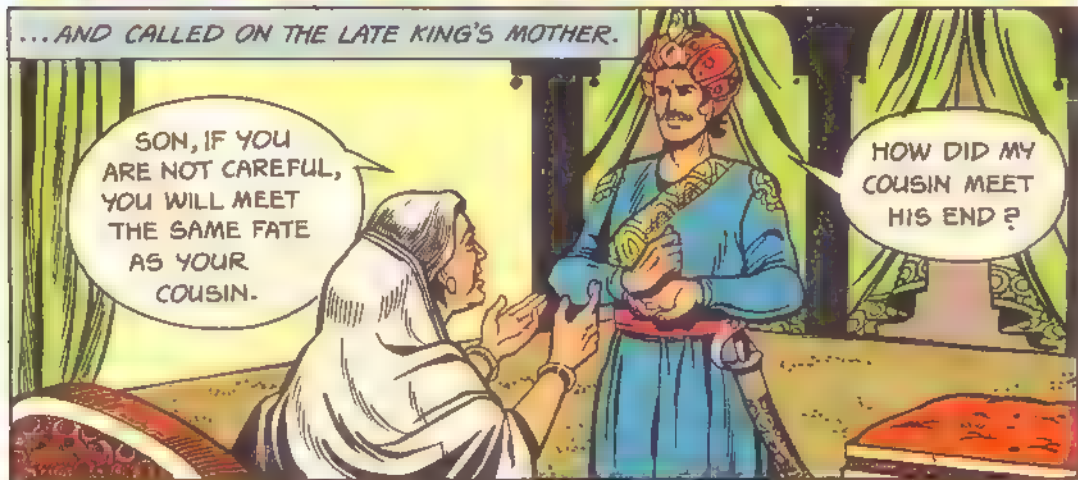


HE STRODE OUT...

...AND CALLED ON THE LATE KING'S MOTHER.

SON, IF YOU ARE NOT CAREFUL, YOU WILL MEET THE SAME FATE AS YOUR COUSIN.

HOW DID MY COUSIN MEET HIS END?



THE QUEEN RECOUNTED THE SAD STORY.

WHEN MY SON RETURNED AFTER INSPECTING THE TREASURY, HE LOOKED VERY TIRED.



"I CALLED IN THE PHYSICIAN, BOMMARASA."



"HE PREPARED A MIXTURE."

THE KING WILL SOON BECOME BETTER AFTER HE TAKES THIS.



"BUT THE KING REFUSED TO TAKE IT."

YOUR MAJESTY, DRINK IT.

WHY ALL THIS FUSS? A DAY'S REST WILL CURE ME.



"I COMPELLED HIM TO DRINK IT."

DON'T REFUSE, SON.
PLEASE TAKE THE
MEDICINE.

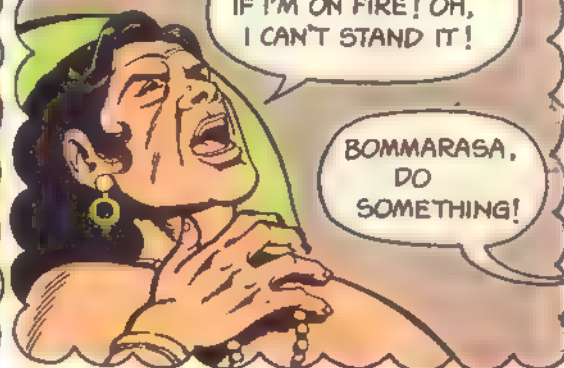
ALL RIGHT,
MOTHER. TO
PLEASE YOU,
I WILL.



"SOON AFTER TAKING THE MEDICINE
HE CRIED OUT —"

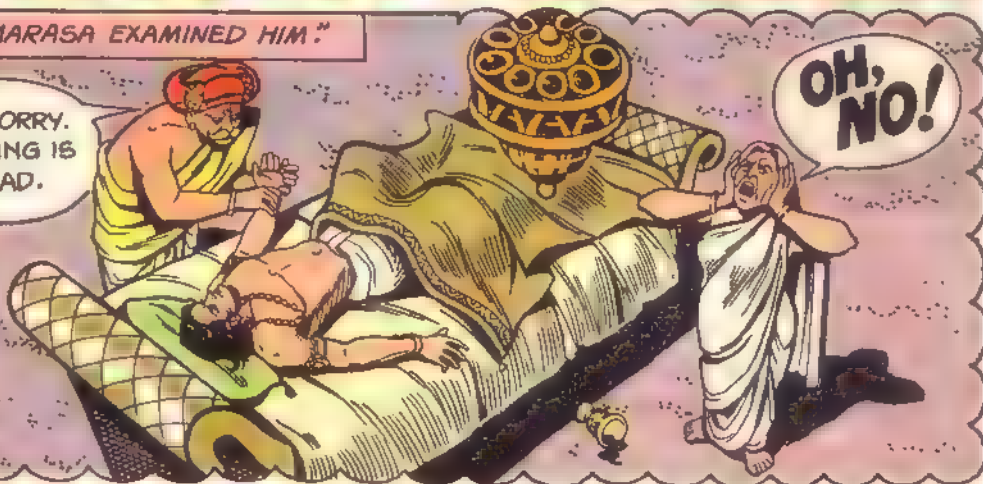
MOTHER, I FEEL AS
IF I'M ON FIRE! OH,
I CAN'T STAND IT!

BOMMARASA,
DO
SOMETHING!



"BOMMARASA EXAMINED HIM."

I AM SORRY.
THE KING IS
DEAD.

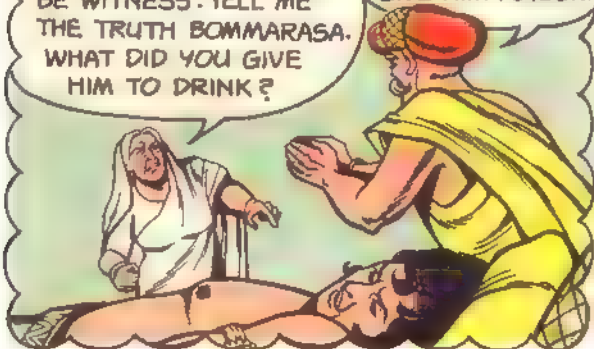


OH,
NO!

"EVEN IN MY SORROW,
I SUSPECTED BOMMARASA."

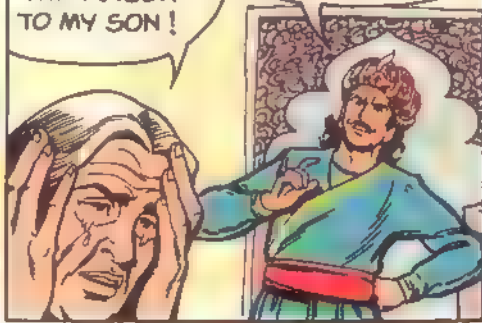
LET THE DEAD KING
BE WITNESS. TELL ME
THE TRUTH BOMMARASA.
WHAT DID YOU GIVE
HIM TO DRINK?

I AM... SORRY.
VIKRAMARAYA
ORDERED ME TO
GIVE HIM POISON.



OH, TO THINK
THAT WITH MY
OWN WRETCHED
HAND I GAVE
THE POISON
TO MY SON!

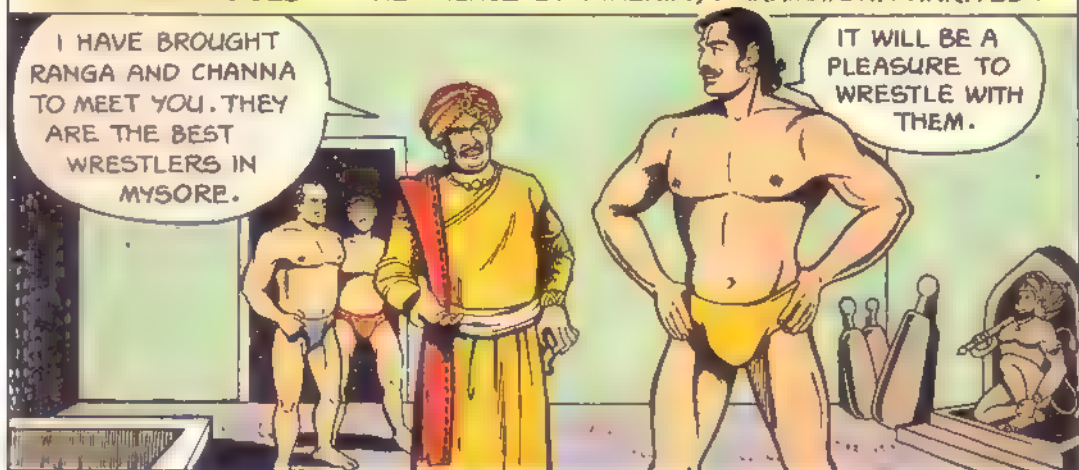
MOTHER, DON'T
CRY. THE CULPRIT
WILL NOT GO
UNPUNISHED.



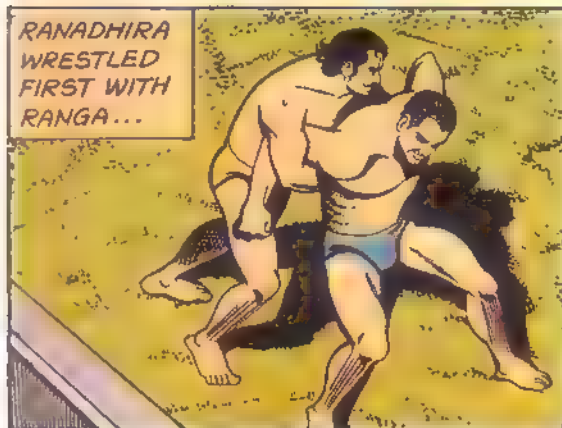
THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AS RANADHIRA WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN HIS USUAL PHYSICAL EXERCISES AT THE PALACE GYMNASIUM, VIKRAMARAYA ARRIVED.

I HAVE BROUGHT RANGA AND CHANNA TO MEET YOU. THEY ARE THE BEST WRESTLERS IN MYSORE.

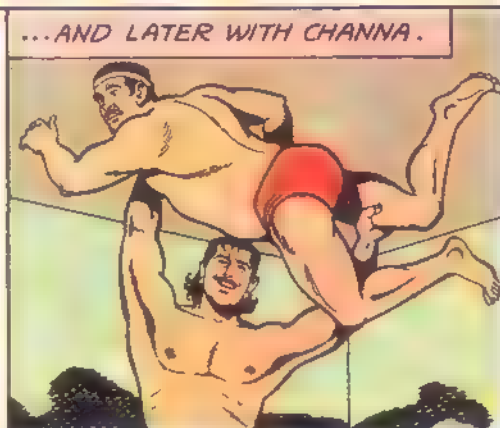
IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO WRESTLE WITH THEM.



RANADHIRA WRESTLED FIRST WITH RANGA...



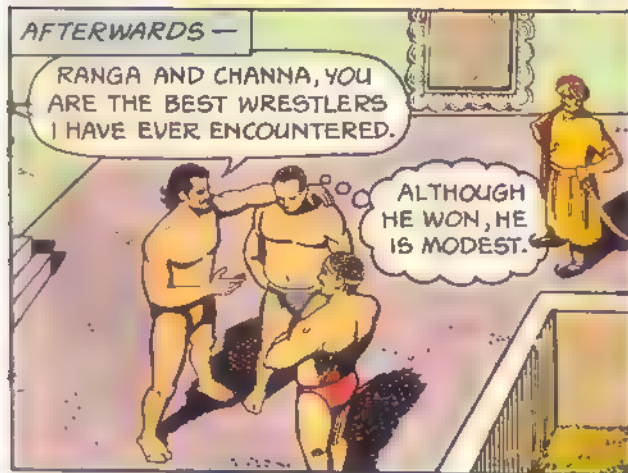
...AND LATER WITH CHANNA.



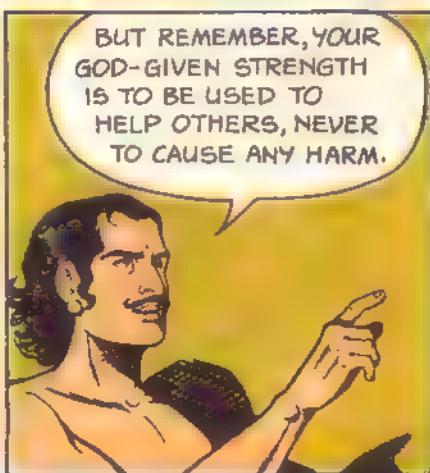
AFTERWARDS —

RANGA AND CHANNA, YOU ARE THE BEST WRESTLERS I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

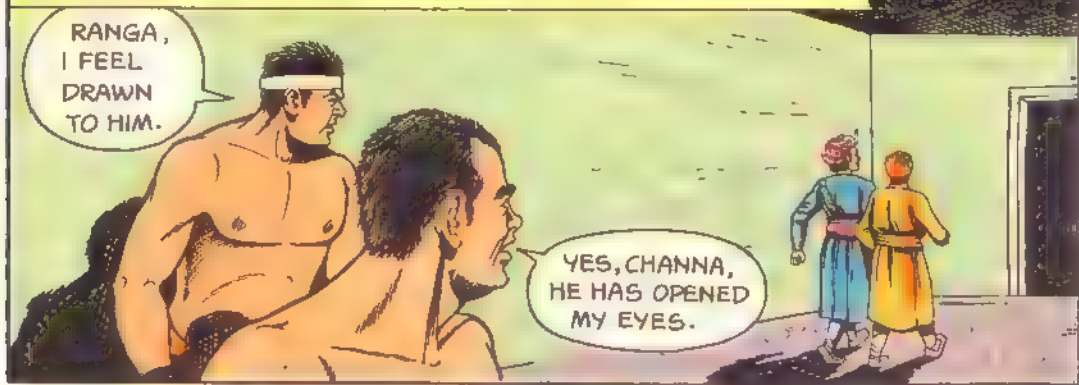
ALTHOUGH HE WON, HE IS MODEST.



BUT REMEMBER, YOUR GOD-GIVEN STRENGTH IS TO BE USED TO HELP OTHERS, NEVER TO CAUSE ANY HARM.



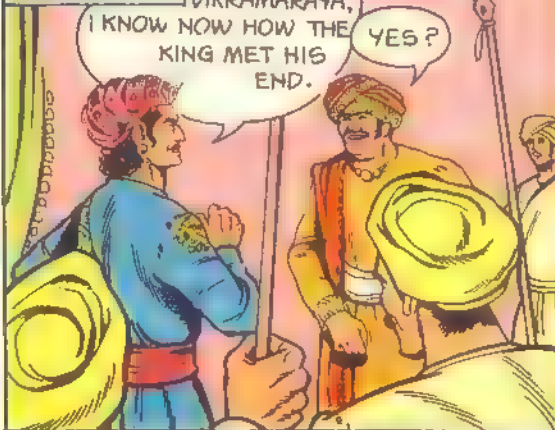
AS RANADHIRA LEFT FOR HIS CHAMBER, WITH VIKRAMARAYA —



RANGA,
I FEEL
DRAWN
TO HIM.

YES, CHANNA,
HE HAS OPENED
MY EYES.

WHEN RANADHIRA REACHED HIS
CHAMBER—



VIKRAMARAYA,
I KNOW NOW HOW THE
KING MET HIS
END.

YES?



I DON'T WANT
TO HAVE A
MURDERER AS
MY CHIEF
MINISTER.

RANADHIRA SUMMONED THE GUARDS.



ARREST
HIM!

BUT THE GUARDS DID NOT MOVE.

VIKRAMARAYA LAUGHED —

WELL, WHY DON'T
YOU ARREST ME,
MY PRINCE?

THEN HE WARNED RANADHIRA —

DON'T FORGET
THAT YOU ARE NOT
YET A KING — NOR
WILL YOU EVER
BE A KING!

WE SHALL
SEE!

VIKRAMARAYA STEPPED OUT OF
RANADHIRA'S CHAMBER AND
LOCKED THE DOOR.

BE VIGILANT.
THE TIGER IS
ANGRY.

BUT THE
CAGE IS
STRONG,
MY LORD.

LATER VIKRAMARAYA SENT FOR
THE WRESTLERS.

GO TO RANADHIRA'S
CHAMBER TONIGHT
AND KILL HIM. I'LL
ALSO BE THERE
TO SEE HIM DIE.

BUT RANGA AND CHANNA HAD OTHER PLANS.

YOU KNOW
WHOM TO KILL
TONIGHT?

YOU CAN
COUNT ON
ME.

THAT NIGHT, RANADHIRA,
TOO, HAD MADE HIS OWN
PLANS —

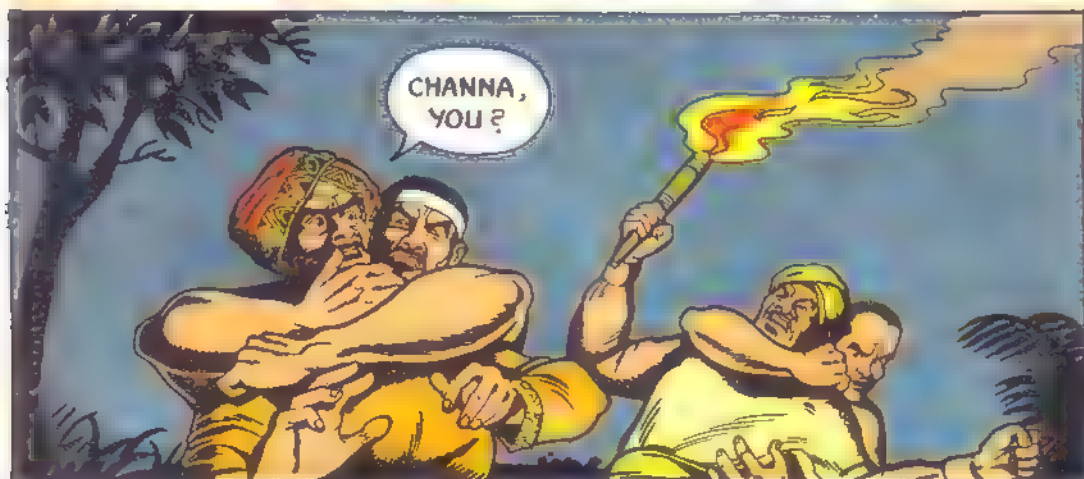
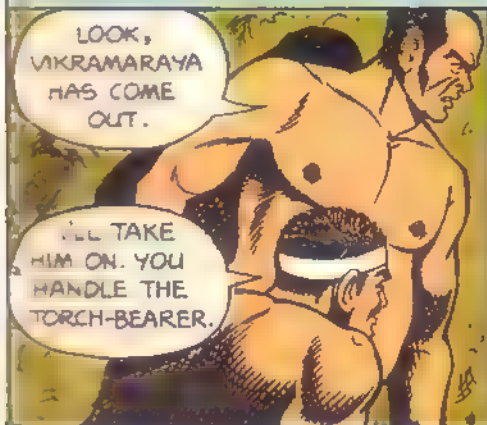
HE BENT THE WINDOW BARS APART...

... AND
ESCAPED!

RANADHIRA THEN SET OUT FOR THE
RESIDENCE OF VIKRAMARAYA.

VIKRAMARAYA
HAS A SURPRISE
IN STORE FOR
HIM.

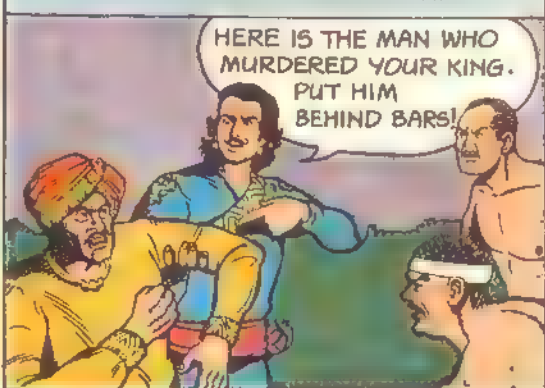
MEANWHILE RANGA AND CHANNA WERE WAITING AT VIKRAMARAYA'S RESIDENCE.



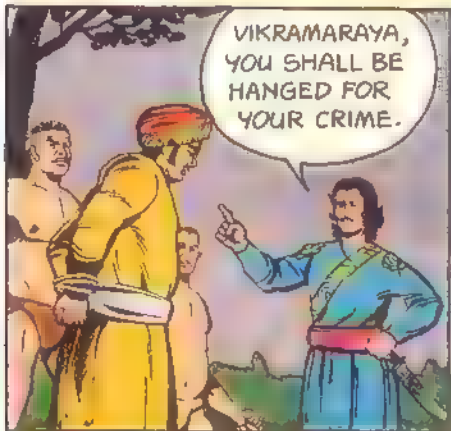
RANADHIRA HAD ARRIVED JUST IN TIME.
WITH ONE BLOW OF HIS IRON FIST...



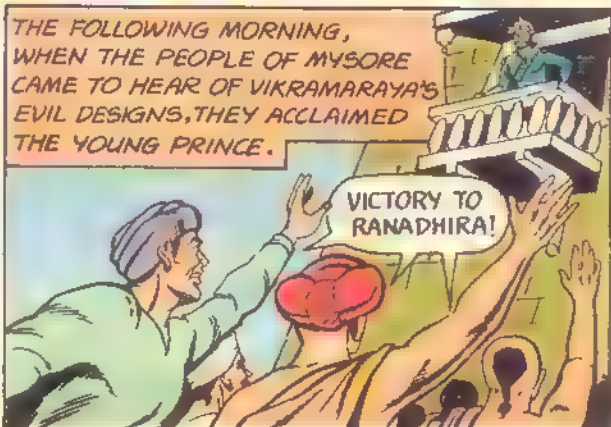
... HE OVERPOWERED VIKRAMARAYA.



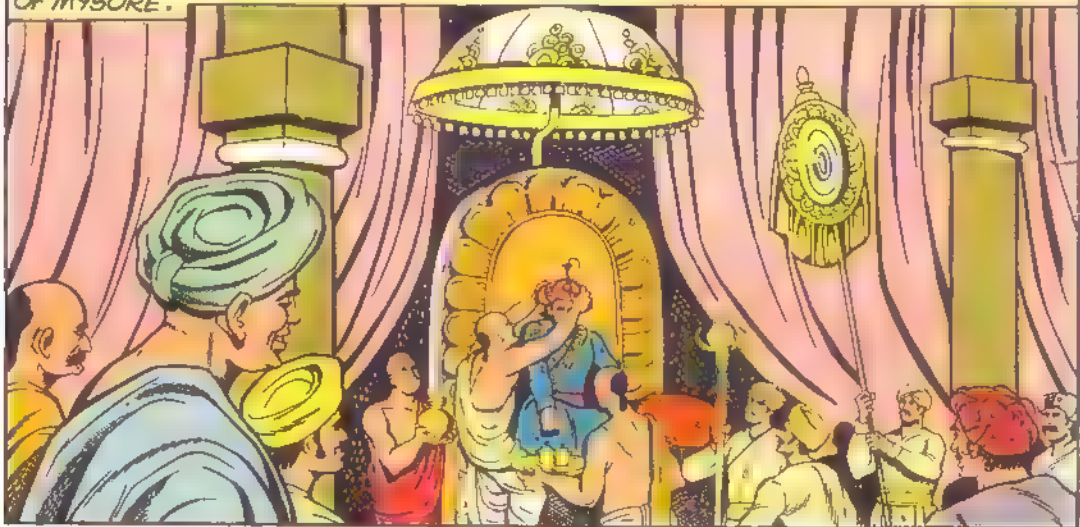
VIKRAMARAYA,
YOU SHALL BE
HANGED FOR
YOUR CRIME.



THE FOLLOWING MORNING,
WHEN THE PEOPLE OF MYSORE
CAME TO HEAR OF VIKRAMARAYA'S
EVIL DESIGNS, THEY ACCLAIMED
THE YOUNG PRINCE.



ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, RANADHIRA NARASARAJA WADEYAR WAS CROWNED KING
OF MYSORE.

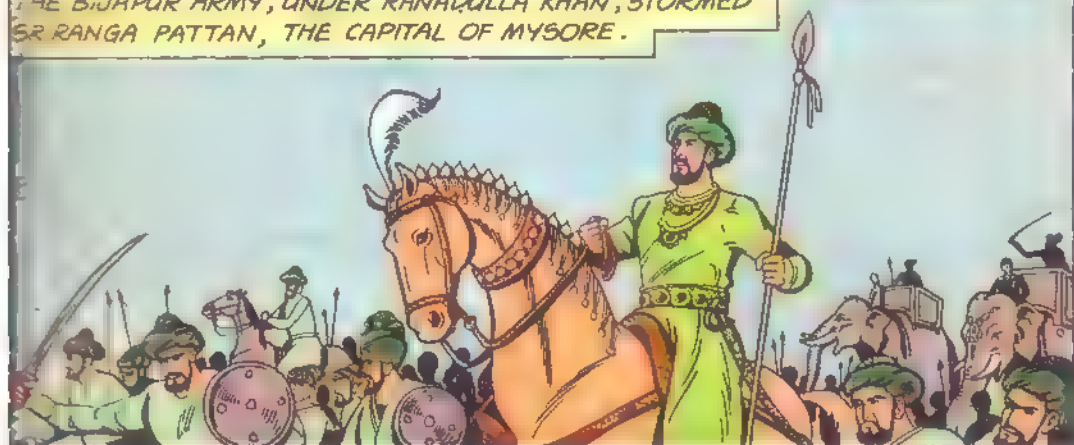


WHEN THE NEWS REACHED THE SULTAN OF BIJAPUR—

THE NEW KING IS
INEXPERIENCED. ISN'T
THIS THE RIGHT
TIME TO ATTACK
MYSORE?

YOU ARE CORRECT,
RANADULLA KHAN.
WE'LL ANNEXE
MYSORE.

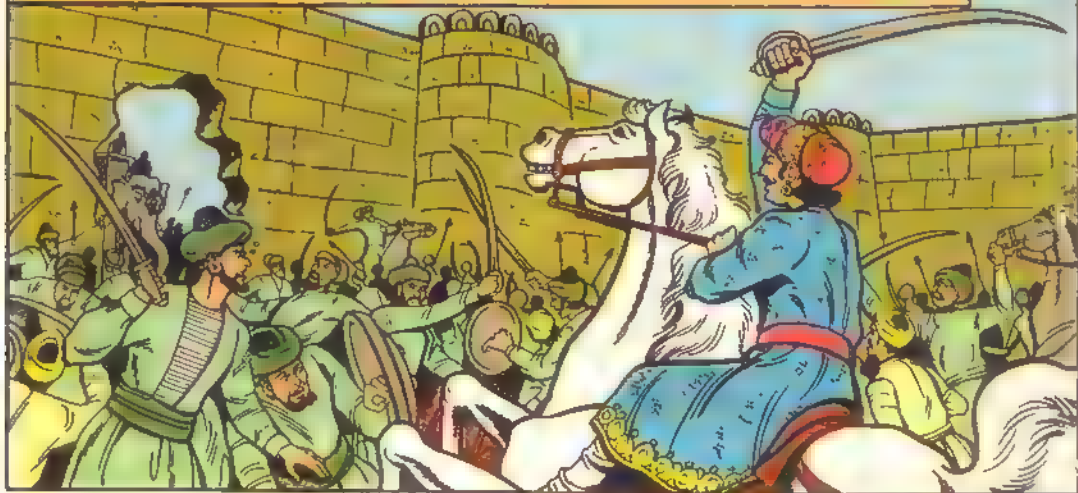
THE BIJAPUR ARMY, UNDER RANADULLA KHAN, STORMED
SR RANGA PATTAN, THE CAPITAL OF MYSORE.



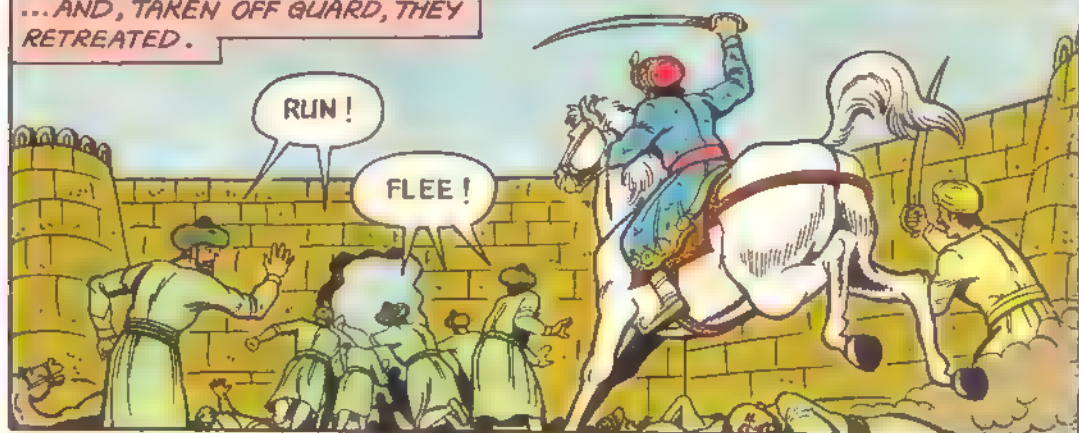
THEY MADE A BREACH IN THE WALL OF THE FORT AND ENTERED THE CITY.



BUT RANADHIRA MADE A BRAVE, FRONTAL ATTACK ON THE ENEMY...



...AND, TAKEN OFF GUARD, THEY RETREATED.



MEANWHILE AT TIRUCHIRAPALLI—

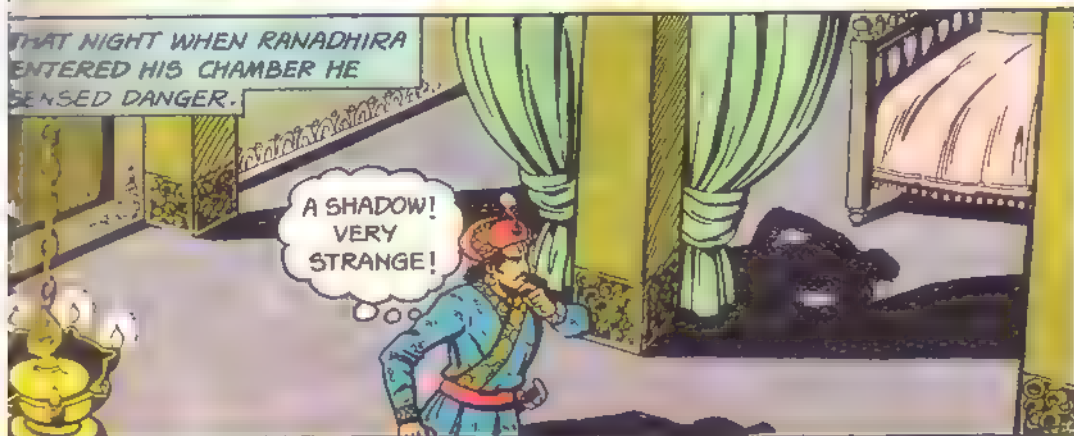


THE WRESTLER WHO INSULTED US HAS NOW BECOME THE KING OF MYSORE. SEND OUR MEN TO MYSORE IN DISGUISE AND

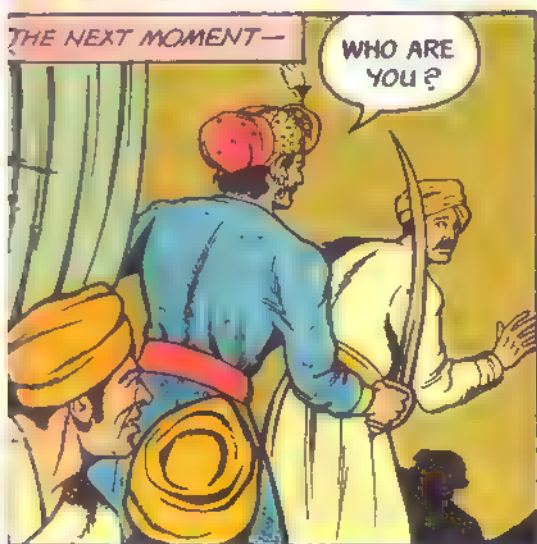
TWENTY-FIVE WRESTLERS LEFT FOR MYSORE ON A MISSION
TO KILL RANADHIRA.



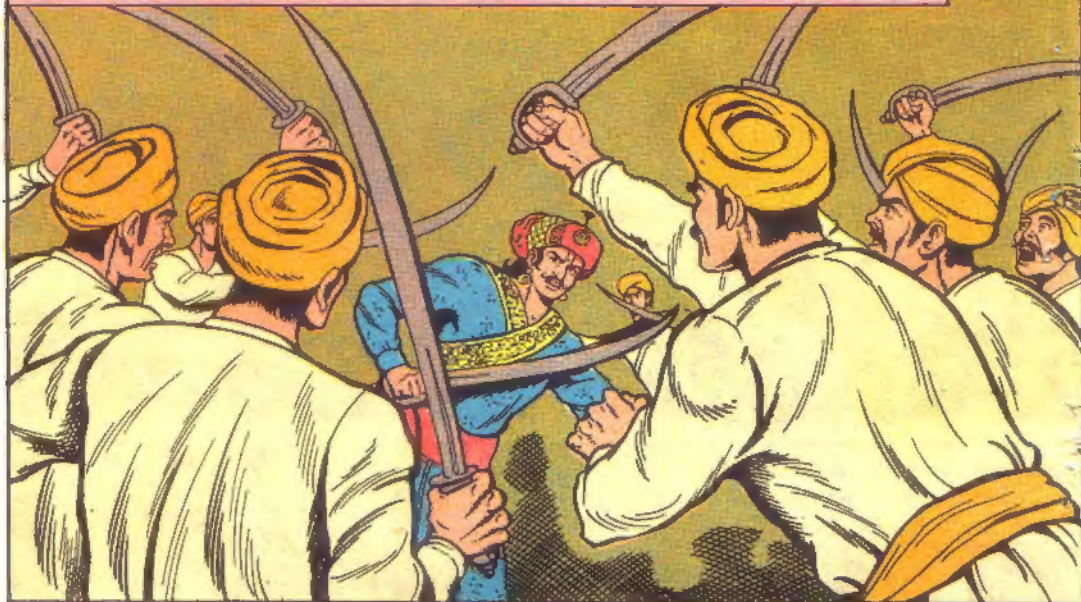
THAT NIGHT WHEN RANADHIRA
ENTERED HIS CHAMBER HE
SENSED DANGER.



THE NEXT MOMENT—



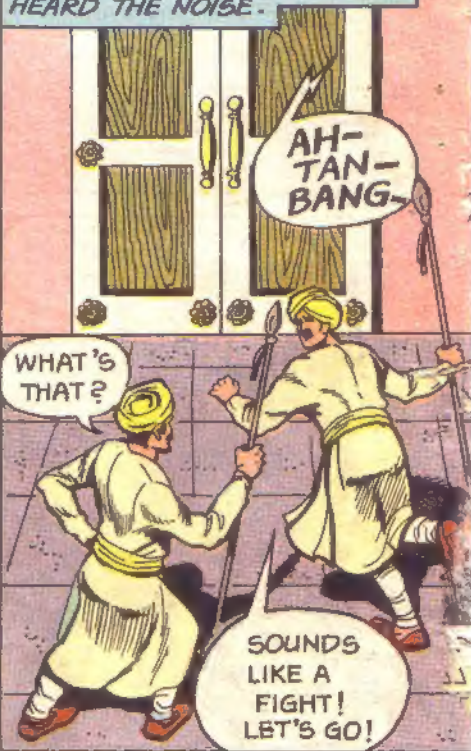
RANADHIRA WAS SOON SURROUNDED BY THE TWENTY-FIVE MEN.



BUT HE DID NOT FLINCH.



THE ROYAL GUARDS OUTSIDE HEARD THE NOISE.



WHEN THE GUARDS BROKE INTO THE ROOM, THEY FOUND THEIR KING
STANDING LIKE ROCK AMIDST THE VANQUISHED MEN.



WHEN THE ATTACK MADE ON THEIR KING
BECAME KNOWN —



LEGENDS ABOUT THE SUPERHUMAN MIGHT OF RANADHIRA GREW AND CHILLED
THE HEARTS OF RIVAL KINGS. HE EXPANDED HIS EMPIRE AND MADE MYSORE STRONG.

* AN AVATAR OF VISHNU



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